

SKILLFUL PITCHING

How the Base-Ball Twirler Practices the Art of Curving the Sphere.

Out-Shoots and In-Shoots, Up-Curves and Down-Curves, Raise-Balls and Jump-Balls, Etc.

The Manner of Holding and Delivering the Ball to Produce Certain Effects.

A great deal has been said and written about the art of curving a base-ball, and scientists have worked for months trying to solve the principle involved in the peculiar shoots and curves which a sphere takes after leaving a pitcher's

curves. It must not be understood that every pitcher has all these curves, as some of them are peculiar to some men, while these same may be ignorant of other curves. It is often said, for instance, that this or that pitcher has a good drop ball, or a good jump ball, by which it is meant that his most deceptive delivery is one or the other of the above. The most common curve, and without which the average pitcher cannot hope to be effective, is the out-curve. This may be obtained by holding the ball firmly in the hand, with the tips of the first and second fingers closely pressed to the sphere. The ball, in being delivered, is given a peculiar jerk. It slides across the tips of the fingers, and out between the first finger and the thumb. The in-shoot is as common as the out-curve. It comes straight for a distance, and then shoots in toward the batter, as for instance:

THE OUT-CURVE AND IN-SHOOT.

It is a very effective ball, because more speed can be given to it than to any other. It is also not so hard on a pitcher's arm, as it does not require that peculiar jerk needed in producing the curves. To produce it the ball is held the same as the out-curve, except that in place of the ball being delivered through the thumb and index finger, it is allowed to glide out right across the tips of the first and second fingers.

A remarkable ball is the drop ball, now used so much. It comes straight from the pitcher's hand for a short distance, and then falls to the ground. It is produced in several ways, and by some pitchers is held the same as an out-curve. It must be started at a good height, most pitchers delivering it from above the shoulder. It is then given a peculiar jerk downward as it leaves the hand. It is a great ball with some of the most effective pitchers in the country, such as Clarkson, Ramsey, Hudson, Sowers, and others. It



hand. It is probably easy enough to explain how a ball can be made to commence curving the moment it leaves the pitcher's hand, and continue in a semi-circle until it loses its force and falls to the ground, but it has never

and Representatives and their families are on a scale of magnificence that reminds one of the tales of the Arabian Nights. He is today one of the glories of social life in Washington. The res-

The Astute Chinese Minister. The accompanying cut is an excellent portrait of Chang Yen Hoon, the Chinese Minister to this country. He is an astute diplomat, and is said to be



much interested in Chinese emigration; has set up a fine establishment at Washington, and is entertaining in gorgeous style. His banquets and entertainments to Cabinet officers and Senators

been satisfactorily explained how a ball may be made to move in a straight line for quite a distance, and then take a quick shoot. Thus:

THE OUT-SHOOT.

Or how it will move along in a straight line for a certain distance, and then fall to the ground, although traveling at a remarkable rate of speed when it falls, as for instance:

THE DROP-BALL.

And yet such wonderful phenomena are witnessed at every game of ball played during the year. The average artist can, as a rule, explain his art, and the whys and wherefores of this



THE OUT-CURVE.

and that, but to the ball pitcher the cause of the effect produced by his work is as a sealed book of whose mysteries he is as ignorant as the tiniest of infants. It is true that he can tell you that if he holds a ball in a certain position and gives it a peculiar jerk in delivering it, a peculiar curve will be the result; but he cannot tell you why that curve is produced, and so he does not bother his head about it, as long as it proves deceptive to the batter.

It may prove interesting to the reader to recount the different curves used by a pitcher, and the manner of holding and delivering the ball to produce those

entire control of the ball, however. The hand is held with the palm toward the ground, and the ball is brought from as high as the shoulder, with a sweep down. When released it is allowed to glide out over the tips of the fingers. It seems to ride the air for a short distance, and then takes the peculiar jump noted.

These are the principal curves and shoots used on a ball field, although some men find a more effective delivery in a change of pace rather than in the use of curves. Stories have been told of men who could curve a ball in a zig-zag around several posts, but the feat never has and never will be accomplished, simply because a zig-zag curve does not exist. The rules for curving a ball, as given above, are not the only ones that can be used, as some men use, for instance, three fingers in producing an out-curve, etc. But if followed and practiced they will produce the desired effect.

Misjudged. It is sometimes impossible to avoid the appearance of evil; we are suspected of deceit, yet we are quite unable to clear ourselves from the imputation. A lady once gave a chapter from her own experience to illustrate the difficulty in setting one's self right when circumstances are persistently adverse: "Aunt Ann once gave me a hideous green dress. I think she had a suspicion that I didn't like it, but she never would believe that I really intended to wear it. The first time I went to her house after receiving it, she asked:

"Elmer why didn't you wear your green dress?" "I couldn't, aunt," said I, "guiltily; I spilled some ink on the front breadth." "She looked at me rather suspiciously, but only said, 'Lower the draperies a little, and see if you can cover the spot.' " "So I did, but the dress was doomed, and the next time I saw her, I was obliged to falter, in answer to the same question: 'I did put it on, but in going down stairs I tore a large, three-cornered rent in the skirt.' " "And so it went on from bad to worse. Never did I don that dress without incurring it in some way, and I actually never did wear it in Aunt Ann's presence. I didn't bring one of these calamities on myself, but I have always felt that my offended benefactor thought I did."

"Oh, yes, no doubt," put in a listener. "I've been through exactly the same sort of thing. I once went to a picnic, after all the events of the day had combined to prevent my preparing for it. I tried to make cream-cakes, and put in a soda instead of salt; I made a sheet of cake, and it fell flat as an old newspaper joke. " "By the time I had discovered this second failure it was twelve o'clock, and I was tired, so I made up my mind to go to the picnic empty-handed, contributing only the story of my woes. " "I did so and every body obligingly laughed over my misfortunes, but I afterwards heard one neighbor confide to another the fact that 'Jane Powers was always master high, but if she didn't mean to bring anything to the picnic, she needn't have made up such a long story to get out of it.' "

Different Authorities. Minister—So you go to school, do you, Bobby? Bobby—Yes, sir. Minister—Let me hear you spell bread. Bobby—B-r-e-a-d. Minister—Webster spells it with an a, Bobby. Bobby—Yes, sir; but you didn't ask me how Webster spells it; you asked me how I spell it.—New York Sun.

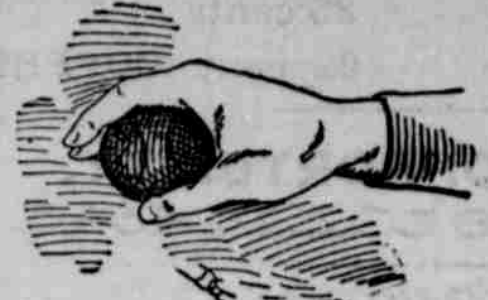
perfectly red and puff up, showing the terrible strain upon it. A ball which was formerly used considerably, and which is yet used occa-

sionally, is the raise-ball, as it is called. Thus:

THE RAISE-BALL.

It consists merely in starting the ball from close to the ground and forcing it to rise gradually until after it passes the plate. It is easily produced, but is very hard to command, and hence is not particularly effective. It was formerly used with wonderful effect by Tom Bond, of the old Boston team. Its chief exponent now is McCormick, of the Pittsburgh club, who continues to use it with effect. He has wonderful command of it, and has speed combined, which renders it unusually effective.

Many people who watched one of last season's pitchers marveled at his effectiveness, and wondered how he succeeded in fooling the batters with what seemed to them a straight ball. The close observer would notice that the batters almost invariably struck under the ball. This was owing to the fact that he was master of what is called the jump ball, which, owing to the fact that few men have mastered it, remains



THE IN-SHOOT.

as probably the most effective ball pitched. It comes up to the plate, apparently perfectly straight, and then takes a quick jump. This is one of the phenomena which scientists have yet to explain satisfactorily. It is produced by holding a ball well in the palm of the hand, with the tips of the fingers closely pressed to it, the first and second fingers having almost



THE JUMP BALL.

entire control of the ball, however. The hand is held with the palm toward the ground, and the ball is brought from as high as the shoulder, with a sweep down. When released it is allowed to glide out over the tips of the fingers. It seems to ride the air for a short distance, and then takes the peculiar jump noted.

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FISK AND BROOKS.

The Prohibitionists Nominates Their Candidates for President and Vice President.

Woman Suffrage Wins an Overwhelming Victory in the Convention.

Text of the Platform—Convention Proceedings—Enthusiasm and Sentiment.

Nearly two hours before the time set for the opening of the National Prohibition Convention at Indianapolis on Wednesday, May 30, delegates began to assemble in Tomlinson Hall. There were a number of farmers among the delegates, and their habits of early rising made the delay irksome, so they got together in the rear of the hall, and made speeches and cheered to their hearts' content. The galleries were crowded with visitors long before the convention was called to order. Many were unable to get even standing room. The delegates manifested a striking fondness for decorating themselves with badges, many wearing several light and fluttering bits of fringed ribbon, to nearly all of which the name of Fisk was appended. The hall was admirably adapted for a great gathering like the convention, well lighted, and with fair acoustic properties. From the paneled ceiling hung colored lanterns, and a succession of Prohibition mottoes decorated the front of

the galleries. Among the sentiments the following: "No North, No South. No Distinction of Color, No Sex in Citizenship." "The Prohibition Party is the True Anti-Foreign Party." At a little before 10 o'clock the Maryland delegation marched in, carrying the blue silk banner it bore four years ago at Pittsburgh, with the names of St. John and Daniel emblazoned upon it. It was heartily applauded, but the great outburst when the New Jersey Young Men's Prohibition Club marched up the aisle, preceded by a large banner in yellow, the woman suffrage leader, and by an old man who carried on his shoulders a huge gilded crank. As soon as the audience caught the name of the State, General Fisk's house, shouting cheers swelled into a perfect storm of applause, which was heightened when the members of the club waved banners bearing the familiar features of the favorite son. Similar ovations greeted the delegation from Ohio, the Hon. J. M. Olin of Wisconsin, read a minority report, he alone disagreeing with the committee. He offered a substitute, in which the whole question of woman suffrage was relegated to the States.

The platform was voted upon by sections, and when this plank was reached the debate opened. The report of the Committee on Rules limited speeches to five minutes each. It seems that the delegates were slow in assembling, nearly all of them having participated in last night's reunion of the Blue and the Gray, which lasted until long after midnight. If they had rather repined at the delay, however, they were not lacking in enthusiasm, and as the leading representatives put in their appearance they received a warm welcome. The convention opened at 10 o'clock by Rev. A. M. Richardson of Kansas, and the routine proceedings went along smoothly until the report of the Committee on Rules was presented. The document submitted, among a number of minor recommendations, one limiting individual speeches to five minutes on any one subject. This raised a storm among the anti-woman suffragists, whose grievance was stated by Walter Thomas Mills, another delegate from Ohio. Motions upon motions were submitted, and for a time the Chairman's gavel was given all it could do. Speeches were made while the utmost confusion reigned. Finally Mr. Christian, of Chicago, took the delegates sharply to task, and good order was restored. The previous question was ordered by a large majority; all the amendments were defeated, and the report of the committee adopted. This was a decided victory for the women's side of the house and they cheered and cheered again. Resolutions deploring the murder of Rev. Dr. J. H. Hays of St. Louis, who was designated as a martyr to the cause of prohibition, were adopted by a rising vote.

In the morning session the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Evans of Illinois, urged the necessity of raising the sum of \$200,000 for campaign expenses, and called for pledges from those present. The first pledge was made by B. E. Stewart of New York for \$1,000, which was afterward doubled. In less than half an hour about \$25,000 was pledged. The widest enthusiasm prevailed, every one giving a large sum, being compelled to stand in a chair while the delegates cheered.

The platform was presented at the afternoon session, and the plank reported was unequivocally in favor of unlimited suffrage. After the Secretary, the Rev. Sam Small, had read the report of the committee, the Hon. J. M. Olin of Wisconsin, read a minority report, he alone disagreeing with the committee. He offered a substitute, in which the whole question of woman suffrage was relegated to the States.

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concerned in the Permanent Chairman was Gov. St. John was followed by Temporary Chairman DeLoach in a few sentences. Gov. St. John responded happily, complimenting Mr. DeLoach upon his work in the temporary organization, and saying that he would rather preside over this convention than be elected President by the run power. He spoke warmly of the outlook. "The old parties," he said, "are giving way, and our leaders, fearing the fall of the republic, Babylon, have concluded not to be crushed in the fall." He concluded with a reference to the lack of sectionalism in the Prohibition party, and said that the convention do such work as will cause future generations to rise up and call it blessed.

The National Christian Temperance Union, which the platform include a plank declaring against Sunday labor of any kind, so far as the National Congress can so legislate. Bishop Turner, of the African Methodist Church, then gave his reasons for leaving the Republican party and joining the Prohibitionists. The convention then adjourned until 9 a. m. Thursday.

Second Day's Proceedings.

Two handsome vases filled with lilies of the valley, the latter presumably emblematic of the purity of the party, almost hid ex-Governor St. John, nearly all of them having participated in last night's reunion of the Blue and the Gray, which lasted until long after midnight. If they had rather repined at the delay, however, they were not lacking in enthusiasm, and as the leading representatives put in their appearance they received a warm welcome. The convention opened at 10 o'clock by Rev. A. M. Richardson of Kansas, and the routine proceedings went along smoothly until the report of the Committee on Rules was presented. The document submitted, among a number of minor recommendations, one limiting individual speeches to five minutes on any one subject. This raised a storm among the anti-woman suffragists, whose grievance was stated by Walter Thomas Mills, another delegate from Ohio. Motions upon motions were submitted, and for a time the Chairman's gavel was given all it could do. Speeches were made while the utmost confusion reigned. Finally Mr. Christian, of Chicago, took the delegates sharply to task, and good order was restored. The previous question was ordered by a large majority; all the amendments were defeated, and the report of the committee adopted. This was a decided victory for the women's side of the house and they cheered and cheered again. Resolutions deploring the murder of Rev. Dr. J. H. Hays of St. Louis, who was designated as a martyr to the cause of prohibition, were adopted by a rising vote.

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quently supported by administration, and authority, and the Prohibition party is imperatively demanded in State and nation.

"That any form of license taxation or regulation by license or tax means into an alliance with crime. He spoke warmly of the state's welfare, and that we arrange the Republican and Democratic parties for their present attitude in favor of the license, inquiry, whereby they oppose the demand of the people for prohibition and through open complicity with the liquor cause defeat the cause of law.

"For the immediate abolition of the internal revenue system, whereby the National Government is deriving support from our greatest national vice.

"That an adequate public revenue being necessary, it may properly be raised by impost duties, but impost duties should be so reduced that no surplus shall be accumulated in the Treasury, and the burdens of taxation should be removed from food, clothing and other comforts and necessities of life, and imposed upon such articles of import as will give protection both to the manufacturer, employer, and producing labor against the competition of the world.

"That civil-service appointments for all civil offices, chiefly clerical in their duties, should be based upon moral, intellectual, and physical qualifications, and not upon party service or party necessity.

"That the right of suffrage rests on no more circumstance of race, color, sex, or nationality, and that where, from any cause, it has been held from citizens who are of suitable age and mentally and morally qualified for the exercise of an intelligent ballot, it should be restored by the people through the Legislatures of the several States on such educational basis as they may deem wise.

"For the abolition of polygamy and the establishment of uniform laws governing marriage and divorce.

"For prohibiting all combinations of capital to control and to increase the cost of products for popular consumption.

"For the preservation and defense of the Sabbath as a civil institution, without oppressing any who religiously observe the same on any other day than the first day of the week.

"That arbitration is the Christian, wise, and economic method of settling national differences, and the same method should by judicious legislation be applied to the settlement of disputes between individuals.

"That monopoly in the land is wrong to the people, and public land should be reserved to actual settlers, and that men and women should receive equal wages for equal work.

"That our immigration laws should be so enforced as to prevent the introduction into our country of all convicts, inmates of dependent institutions, and others physically incapacitated for self-support, and that no person shall have the ballot in any State who is not a citizen of the United States.

"Recognizing and declaring that prohibition of the liquor traffic has become the dominant issue in national politics, we invite to full party fellowship all those who, on this one dominant issue, are with us agreed, in the full belief that this party can and will remove sectional differences, physical disabilities, and insure the best welfare of our native land."

Resolutions were also adopted by the convention favoring the payment of pensions to ex-soldiers and sailors; endorsing the work of the Prohibition army of the blue and the gray; condemning the Democratic and Republican parties for denying the right of self-government to the 300,000 people of Dakota; and, upon motion of a colored delegate from North Carolina, a resolution declaring "that we hold that all men are born free and equal, and should be secured in their rights."

A colored delegate from North Carolina offered the following, which was seconded by Sam Small and immediately adopted: "Resolved, That we hold that all men are born free and equal and should be secured in their rights."

The decks were all cleared for action at the assembling of the convention in the evening and nothing detained the delegates except the nomination of candidates. The roll of the States was called for nominations, and when Kentucky was reached Mr. Baile arose and withdrew the name of the Hon. Green Clay Smith, for whom the Kentucky delegation was instructed to vote. The call proceeded until New Jersey was reached, when there arose such cheering as had not before been witnessed in the convention.

Judge Morrow took the rostrum and in an eloquent speech presented to the name of the Hon. Clinton B. Fisk before the convention. His dress was short, yet one of the most polished delivered before the convention. He paid a tribute to Gen. Fisk as a man, a statesman, a Christian, and a patriot. As he closed, the convention rose and as one man with one impulse uttered the name of his name. Cheers followed cheer in such rapid succession that it was impossible to distinguish them. As soon as the convention was over, the delegates were heard moving that Clinton B. Fisk be nominated by acclamation. Amid applause the question was put and carried without dissenting voice. The nomination was then confirmed by a rising vote, and the unanimity became evident. The delegates then concluded a beautiful floral emblem was pulled aside, revealing the words: "Hall to the Chief—Fisk." An American flag bearing the picture of Gen. Fisk, immediately after the enthusiasm faded, was prominent among the delegates. The cheering was kept up for ten minutes or more, and for a time it seemed as though it would never cease. At length the cheering subsided, and the formal announcement by the Chairman of the results of the election was begun for nomination of candidates for President.

Alabama, through J. F. Colson, placed in nomination John T. Tanner, whose name was received with almost equal applause to that with which the name of Fisk was received. Georgia was reached Sam Small took the floor, and in one of the most flowery nominating speeches paid a tribute to the worth, earnestness and real of one of the noblest of them all—George W. Bain, of Lexington, Ky. Mr. Bain, immediately after the enthusiasm faded, the mention of his name had died away, pleaded with the convention not to consider his name. Crises dissolved were heard, but he insisted on the plea that he was unable to stand the fatigue of the campaign, and that he would be more valuable on the stump and as a speaker.

The next nomination was that of John A. Brooks of Kansas City, made by G. C. Christian of Chicago. The applause with which the name was greeted was hearty and general.

Mr. Bennett of Kansas nominated Sam Small of Georgia, who immediately declined to run. The remaining speeches were devoted to seconding previous nominations, and when Texas was reached, Delegates Dickie of Michigan, Mrs. Hoffman of Missouri, Mr. Grew of New York, Miller of Oregon, and Stewart of Pennsylvania seconded the nomination of Brooks. A number of seconds were made for Small.

Then, through J. B. Canfield, nominated E. L. Doehoney.

At the close of the roll-call John T. Tanner of Alabama rose and withdrew in favor of Mr. Brooks. Mr. Canfield withdrew in favor of Mr. Doehoney, and then on motion of Mr. Christian, the nomination of John A. Brooks was put through by acclamation with a rush. A scene like this which succeeded Fisk's nomination followed, and for a time the convention was a seething mass of humanity, swayed by enthusiasm that was contagious. Brooks was called for and a speech insisted upon. He responded with thanks for the honor conferred, and promised to stand by the principles of the party with his usual fidelity. He then withdrew in favor of Mr. Doehoney, and then on motion of Mr. Christian, the nomination of John A. Brooks was put through by acclamation with a rush. A scene like this which succeeded Fisk's nomination followed, and for a time the convention was a seething mass of humanity, swayed by enthusiasm that was contagious. Brooks was called for and a speech insisted upon. He responded with thanks for the honor conferred, and promised to stand by the principles of the party with his usual fidelity. He then withdrew in favor of Mr. Doehoney, and then on motion of Mr. Christian, the nomination of John A. Brooks was put through by acclamation with a rush. A scene like this which succeeded Fisk's nomination followed, and for a time the convention was a seething mass of humanity, swayed by enthusiasm that was contagious. Brooks was called for and a speech insisted upon. He responded with thanks for the honor conferred, and promised to stand by the principles of the party with his usual fidelity. He then withdrew in favor of Mr. Doehoney, and then on motion of Mr. Christian, the nomination of John A. Brooks was put through by acclamation with a rush. A scene like this which succeeded Fisk's nomination followed, and for a time the convention was a seething mass of humanity, swayed by enthusiasm that was contagious. Brooks was called for and a speech insisted upon. He responded with thanks for the honor conferred, and promised to stand by the principles of the party with his usual fidelity. He then withdrew in favor of